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Founding the NAACP

Originally called the New Negro Committee, the NAACP is the oldest Civil Rights organization in the United States. NAACP stands for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. On February 12, 1909, W.E.B DuBois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Henry Moscowitz, Oswald Garrison Villard, White Ovingtion, and William English Walling founded the NAACP. The NAACP was an enormous milestone in moving the black race towards true freedom by marching and fighting for what was right.

After a riot in Springfield, Illinois, the NAACP was founded. Following this riot many people in the north received “the call” to create social and racial equality, and to stop discrimination against black people because it was unfair to the black race. The NAACP was created to try to make blacks as free as whites. Though the black race was free from slavery they did not truly feel as free as whites. Black people would see bathrooms, water fountains, and even restaurants that had signs saying “no colored” or “whites only.” There were no documents or contracts; it was just a group of people on a mission to help the black race.

By 1914, this group had over six thousand member and fifty branches. A few years later, in 1916, this group expanded towards the south and in 1920 James Johnson became the first black executive secretary of the NAACP. Within four years Johnson increased the member ship of this organization from nine thousand to over ninety thousand. This group held many marches against DW Griffith’s movie *Birth of the Nation* a film that supported the Ku Klux Klan. And they fought against blacks and whites being separated into two different communities. These marches did have an effect because several cities refused to let this movie open.

The NAACP not only helped move the black race towards freedom but it gave them the mind set that they can change history. If the NAACP was never founded, the black race may be treated the same way they were in 1900; still seeing the signs and still being separated in different communities. Also many of the accomplishments that have happened today, may not happen until the 2020’s depending on when or if the NAACP was founded. Such as the inauguration of Barack Obama may not have happened this soon. Also, because the NAACP was mostly responsible for organizing the Montgomery bus boycott, busses today may still be divided into black and white sections.

The NAACP has had a major effect on the segregation of blacks and whites over the past one hundred years. The accomplishments they have made have changed black history forever. “Although, one could write great prose about the triumphs of the NAACP, there is nothing more powerful than the facts of how the existence of the oldest civil rights organization has changed the face of history for this country. And despite threats of violence, and official government policies that were racist the NAACP continued and will continue to persevere." (Quote taken from <http://www.fairness.com/resources/relation?relation_id=6630>) Not only is this group the oldest civil rights organization in the nation, but it is definitely the most successful for the black race.